

THE NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

MARYVILLE, MO.

MISSOURIANONLINE.COM

VOLUME 79, ISSUE 14

DECEMBER 9, 2004

Freshmen take over women's basketball team. See B1

Newsbriefs

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Auxier receives 90-day jail sentence

By DOMNICK HADLEY
Missourian Reporter

Nearly two months after pleading guilty to felony statutory rape, former Maryville teacher Vicki Auxier was sentenced to five years probation and 90 days of jail time for her sexual relationship with a former student.

During the sentencing hearing Circuit Court Judge Roger Prokes said that the 90-day sentence was appropriate because of the impact that Auxier's action had on society and other dedicated teachers.

In early discussions with Special Prosecutor Dwight Scroggins and defense attorney Robert Sundell, Prokes indicated that he would consider probation as a plausible punishment.

"All of society was a victim of this," Prokes said. "Our society struggles as far as education, but the rest of the dedicated teachers don't need to have this cloud hanging over their heads."

Auxier was arrested in February after a month-long inves-

tigation by the Maryville Public Safety revealed that she had multiple sexual encounters with the victim, who at the time was 16 years old.

During the course of the sentencing, Auxier issued tearful apologies to all of the individuals involved in the case.

"There are a lot of people in this courtroom that I have hurt," Auxier said. "But I

didn't set out to hurt anyone and I apologize for the hurt and humiliation that I've caused. . . I just hope that all of the people

involved can forgive me so that I can forgive myself," she said.

Auxier's son, Erick, testified that his mother realized that her actions were clearly wrong, and that no amount of jail time could amount to the emotional distress she's endured.

"My life has been turned upside down. When I come back from college I come back to an unfamiliar home," he said. "If she could take it all back, I'm sure she would in a heartbeat. . . I don't believe that any jail time would shock her because she has already suffered a greater punishment."

Please see 'Auxier' on page A4



Vicki Auxier



PHOTO BY COLE YOUNG/SPORTS EDITOR

Wrapped in yellow tape and adorned with a note detailing its uncertain future, Northwest's only horsechestnut tree is at the heart of debate among students, who insist the tree remain, and contractors, who say the tree must come down for the construction of new residence halls.

Students launch crusade to save campus tree

By ANDY TIMKO
Chief Reporter

A lifelong Northwest staple may soon be leaving its roots behind when the demolition and rebuilding of Hudson and Perrin Halls begins in the spring.

The 50-year-old Horsechestnut tree (Aesculus hippocastanum) on the south side of Hudson Hall is the only one of its species on campus and it found itself in danger when the new residence hall plans were revealed.

"The problem is that it finds itself right in the middle of the new Hudson/Perrin complex," said Kent Porterfield, vice president of student affairs. "Certainly we don't want to lose trees if possible."

The Horsechestnut is native to parts of southern Europe and southern Asia, is widely planted throughout Europe and Britain as a shade tree that flowers in spring.

A characteristic unique to the Horsechestnut is its large leaves that are clean and medium green in spring. Each leaf has seven leaflets, and each leaflet is obovate (widest in its upper half near the apex), with a very short blunt tip.

Since Monday two Northwest students, Nicole Koeltzow and Kim Watson, have been posting flyers around campus asking students to help them save the tree.

Koeltzow and Watson are talking the Local Flora class and were told by their professor that the tree may be cut down to make room for the new halls.

"Kim sent in a comment card and Lezlee Johnson, (associate director of Environmental Services) wrote back saying she could not do anything about it, even though she wants to save the tree," Koeltzow said. "So Kim and I decided that we want to try and save the tree."

Along with Local Flora, the Horsechestnut is also used for research in the Woody Landscape class, but that's not the extent of the tree's purposes. The tree is also

listed as the first tree in the University's Tree Walk pamphlet.

Despite the concern, Porterfield believes the construction plans need to continue as soon as an agreement can be reached.

"It's clearly in harm's way, but it's a project that needs to move on so the issue clearly needs to be resolved," he said.

Porterfield is working with Johnson to come up with a solution for the problem.

"About the only solution I have right now is committing to getting more Horsechestnut trees to plant elsewhere on campus," Johnson said. "Moving that particular tree would cost in the tens of thousands of dollars and even then, the outlook would not look good."

According to Johnson, the University has had a commitment with the arboretum to have more than one tree of a certain species on campus, but they had not yet started planting new Horsechestnuts.

Another problem that they've run into is finding a suitable tree to plant because the tree is not native to Missouri and they don't want to plant trees that are only four or five feet tall.

"They haven't been locally available and we're looking to find something that has a little more impact on the landscape," she said. "Small trees are just not very visible on the landscape."

Porterfield and Johnson both acknowledged the students' interest in the issue and hope they continue to pursue their goal in saving the tree.

Koeltzow and Watson are looking for support from other students and faculty and have marked the tree with yellow caution tape to show their determination.

"I would like to see the University leave a 50-year-old landmark stand," Watson said. "We are an arboretum and this destruction desecrates land that has been dedicated to growing trees and plants for many years."

The Fight for Life



PHOTO COURTESY OF RODNEY SMITH

Maryville resident Christina Smith enjoys a Christmas play with her daughter, Gracen Himmelberg, Tuesday evening. Afterwards, she helped her daughter check her blood sugar levels. (Above) Himmelberg must do this eight to 10 times a day as part of being a type 1 diabetic. Smith is leading a fight to find a cure for the disease.

By SARAH SWEDBERG
University News Editor

Hope. That's what drives Maryville resident Christina Smith each day to work with the thousands who want to find a cure for diabetes.

"I don't think we should no longer just accept this disease," Smith said. "I think that we really need to take a stand for diabetes and disease in general in America."

For Smith, type 1 diabetes affected her family when her daughter, Gracen Himmelberg, was diagnosed with the disease a year ago.

"You're just not really sure what you can do," she said. "You just try to learn how to live with the disease and try to

keep your child alive because it's a very life threatening disease."

Now, at the age of 5, Himmelberg gives herself insulin four times a day and checks her blood eight to 10 times a day.

Himmelberg, along with up to two million Americans with type 1 diabetes, learn to live with the disease which develops when the body's immune cells mistakenly attack the insulin-producing islet cells of the pancreas. As islet cells die, insulin production ceases and blood sugar levels rise, damaging organs throughout the body. In type 1 diabetes, which is usually diagnosed in children and young adults, the body does not produce insulin.

To find a cure for the disease, Smith has joined the Iacocca Foundation and its Join Lee Now initiative as Missouri's state captain to help fund research by Denise Faustman, a doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor at Harvard Medical School. She made history by reversing and

Please see 'Diabetes' on page A5

Biopharming initiative not to affect UM merger plans

By AARON BAILEY
Community News Editor

As Northwest pursues a landmark venture into biopharming, the potential merger with the University of Missouri system has cooled down as state legislators and University officials focus their energies on the new initiative.

"There's a whole other set of questions: Is the merger the right thing long-term? And so on," Northwest President Dean Hubbard said. "That's what we'll have to discuss. But we agreed that we didn't want to mess (the biopharming initiative) up. If we

created uncertainty about a merger, that would create uncertainty."

Hubbard said that the number one priority for Northwest right now is to finalize the biopharming project and that—while not off the University's radar scope—the merger has slid down the priority list.

And while the merger effort has been pushed back, Hubbard said it's not out of the question to pursue it during the next legislative session, which runs from January through April.

"The merger has strengths

Please see 'Biopharming' on page A5

State legislators visit Northwest campus, show support for potential impact

By ABBY SIMONS
Editor in Chief

Lawmakers from throughout the state looked on as State Sen. David Klindt touted the bright future of biopharming. No doubt, the feeling of optimism could be cut with a knife.

"We may look back 10 years from now, and this may be the biggest turnaround for the state

of Missouri," Klindt said. "We hope that happens."

The state legislators met on the Northwest campus Wednesday, along with Ventría Bioscience executives, Northwest administrators and economic development officials for an informational meeting on Northwest's newly-sealed agreement to relocate Ventría.

Please see 'Legislators' on page A4



PHOTO BY ALEXIS HEJNA/MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

Flanked by Ventría Bioscience president Jeff Deeter, left, Mel Booth, far right, and state legislators, Rep. Brad Lager discusses the future of biopharming for campus, community and Missouri. Legislators from throughout the state converged in Maryville Wednesday to mobilize support for the initiative.

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Log on to read about the
International Student
program



Friday 12/10



Sun and Wind
High 44°F
Low 44°F

Saturday 12/11



Partly Cloudy
High 53°F
Low 34°F

Sunday 12/12



Partly Cloudy
High 46°F
Low 25°F

Your Weekend Weather

National News

Pearl Harbor survivors honored

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—Tears ran down the wrinkled cheeks of 81-year-old Wayne Pease on Tuesday as he recalled the destruction he witnessed on Dec. 7, 1941.

"I had a bird's-eye view to watch five battleships go down," said Pease, who was an 18-year-old seaman aboard the USS Sicard destroyer when the Japanese launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Pease, of Fort Myers, Fla., was among the dwindling number of survivors who returned to the site of their most haunting memories to honor fallen comrades on the 63rd anniversary of the assault.

"On December the 6th, I was a boy," Pease said. "On December the 7th, I became a man, suddenly. I grew up in one day. I grew up in two hours you might say."

Ceremonies were held on shore and on the gleaming white monument straddling the submerged USS Arizona.

The anniversary took on added meaning with U.S. troops still fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, saluted the nation's resilience, then and now.

"It was a day when weaker souls would have surrendered," Inouye said of the attack that thrust the United States into World War II. "It



PHOTO BY RONEN ZILBERMAN/ AP
Zenji Abe, 88, a Japanese dive-bomber pilot who participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor, signs an autograph on a model of a Japanese zero plane, at the annual Pearl Harbor Commemoration ceremony, in

was a day that gave real meaning to our name, the United States of America."

He added: "Today, the obstructions and challenges are many the ugly voices of hatred and the unconscionable actions of terrorism around us intending to make us

afraid."

Inouye, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, spoke to more than 1,000 people at the USS Arizona Memorial visitor center.

Just 17 and living in Honolulu at the time, he later lost his right arm serving in Europe as a member of the Army's distinguished 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up almost entirely of Japanese-Americans.

A moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. marked the time bombs began to fall over the harbor. Hawaii Air National Guard jets roared overhead in a missing-man formation.

The somber ceremony, under overcast skies with an ocean breeze, concluded with a 21-gun salute and a Navy bugler playing "Taps."

"It's really neat to see them out here and see people that were in the war and experienced the whole thing," said Dave Casados, of Red Bluff, Calif. "It's a privilege to see them."

Other ceremonies were held around the country.

In Little Rock, Ark., retired U.S. Air Corps Col. David Moffat recalled standing guard at an airfield when the attack began. "There was a state of confusion. Our weapons were locked up," he said. "One officer ran to his plane in pajamas."

Crash kills NASA employees

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP)—A commuter van from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory tumbled 200 feet off a twisting mountain road Wednesday, killing three people and injuring seven, at least four of them seriously, authorities said.

The van was carrying 10 people to the laboratory when it plunged off the Angeles Crest Highway in the Angeles National Forest at about 6:30 a.m. and rolled down a mountainside about 15 miles north of downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Fire Department inspector Ron Haralson said.

"One person was able to get out of the van and make his way up to the road" to get help, Haralson said.

"It's a very, very sad day for all of us at JPL," Baggett said, adding that employees will be offered grief counseling.

Three people were pronounced dead at the scene. One person was flung from the van. Others lay trapped in the battered white van in the middle of a dense forest until firefighters arrived and tore off the doors to reach victims, who were then taken by helicopter to hospitals.



PHOTO BY PHIL MCCOY
A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department helicopter transporting victims of a van crash takes off from the Angeles National Forest in California, Wednesday. A van from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory tumbled off a twisting mountain road in the national forest in Southern California, resulting in multiple fatalities, according to

Of the survivors, one person was in critical condition, three were in serious condition, two had minor injuries and one person was still being evaluated, Haralson said.

The cause of the accident immediately known. Clouds shrouded the site, at an altitude of 1,500 feet. Snow dotted the mountain, but the road itself was

Missouri News

Man gets life for killing infant daughters

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A Lee's Summit man was sentenced to life in prison after admitting he smothered his two infant daughters with a pillow.

Geoffrey Duvall, 24, pleaded guilty Tuesday to two counts of second-degree murder and one count of child abuse resulting in death.

Duvall was barely audible as he

entered his plea. He offered no explanation for why he killed 8-month-old Katelynn in May 2001 and 3-month-old Megan in December 2002.

Katelynn's death originally was ruled a case of sudden infant death syndrome. But when Megan died suddenly 18 months later, Katelynn's case was reopened.

"He was trusted with his

daughters," said the girl's mother, Juliet Lantorno. "He gave me life and he took it away from them."

The victims' grandmother, Sheila Lantorno, had been working for Duvall.

"He is a very sick, weak man, unable to pick up two little babies," she said at sentencing.

CONGRATS TO
2004
Josh Hutson
Emily Jackson
Roddy Jasa
Thank you for all your hard work!
Student Publications wishes you the Best of Luck!!

Hats off to the
December 2004
Graduates!!
WELL DONE!
December 17, 2004
Bearcat Arena
7:00 p.m.

Congratulations Danny!
We're So Proud of You
Love,
Dad, Mom, Rich, Dana, Miranda & Nick

Emily,
Faith is the
substance of things
hoped for, the
evidence of things
not seen.
Hebrews 11:1
We are so
proud of you!
Love always,
Mom & Dad

The past
was ours
The future
is yours
WE'RE SO PROUD!
Love, Mom & Dad, Jim,
Jennifer, Michael & Landon

Christine and Jill,
The memories of
hallway olympics,
hamburgers, "movie"
nights, and dorm
destruction will
never fade.
Never Forget Me,
Love, your neighbor,
BRANT

Wow Dylan!
22 years of
Pride and Joy!
Keep up the great
work in Grad School!
Love You Always
Mom, Dad, Lori
and Morgan

Congratulations
SARAH!
May all your dreams
come true.
We love you!
Mom, Steve,
and Anna

Congratulations Rock!
Are you getting this...
Oh, I'm getting this
From: THE

Congratulations
SARAH!
Love,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations
We are very proud
of you.
It's time to take
on the world!
Love,
Mom & Dad
Dustin and Gordon

Congratulations
MARY!
YOU DID IT!
Love,
Amy, Alicia,
& Damali

Our View

Leaf it be

struction threatens the life of one campus tree which could affect Northwest's dedication to nature.

quote from William Blake on the University's arboretum Web site says it all:

tree which moves some to tears of joy eyes of others, only a green thing stands in the way."

west Missouri State boasts several dif- fers. In addition to being the Missouri award winner and a Malcolm Baldrige the University houses the Missouri arboretum.

many look at this as just another op- for the University to put another its mantle, the dedication shown to growth of a fantastic array of trees at st is something to be admired.

nce Thomas Gaunt began planting what eventually became Northwest 0 years ago, this land has seen trees

tree may be falling if some people us have their way.

orchestnut tree located between Hall and the Mabel Cook Admissions is at risk of falling at the wish of con- to demolish Hudson and build new

ne, to say the least.

Northwest to cut a tree down simply ease of construction goes against ev- the University and its state arbore- for.

two Northwest students plan to stand of the proposed removal of the tree. representatives from the University say that e a shame for the tree to be removed, ss is also important on the campus. ss that since plans are in such early regards to the Hudson Hall project ng concessions in order to save the d be feasible.

atter what the result, the efforts put form the public by Nicole Koeltzow Watson are to be commended.

often on this-campus, students are toward issues surrounding them. For to stand up and support something ly believe in is truly refreshing on a here it is far too easy for students to ain — if pay attention at all — instead out and do something about it.

nt for the tree these students are put- pefully will set a benchmark for the d preservation of nature for years to

Missourian Backtalk.

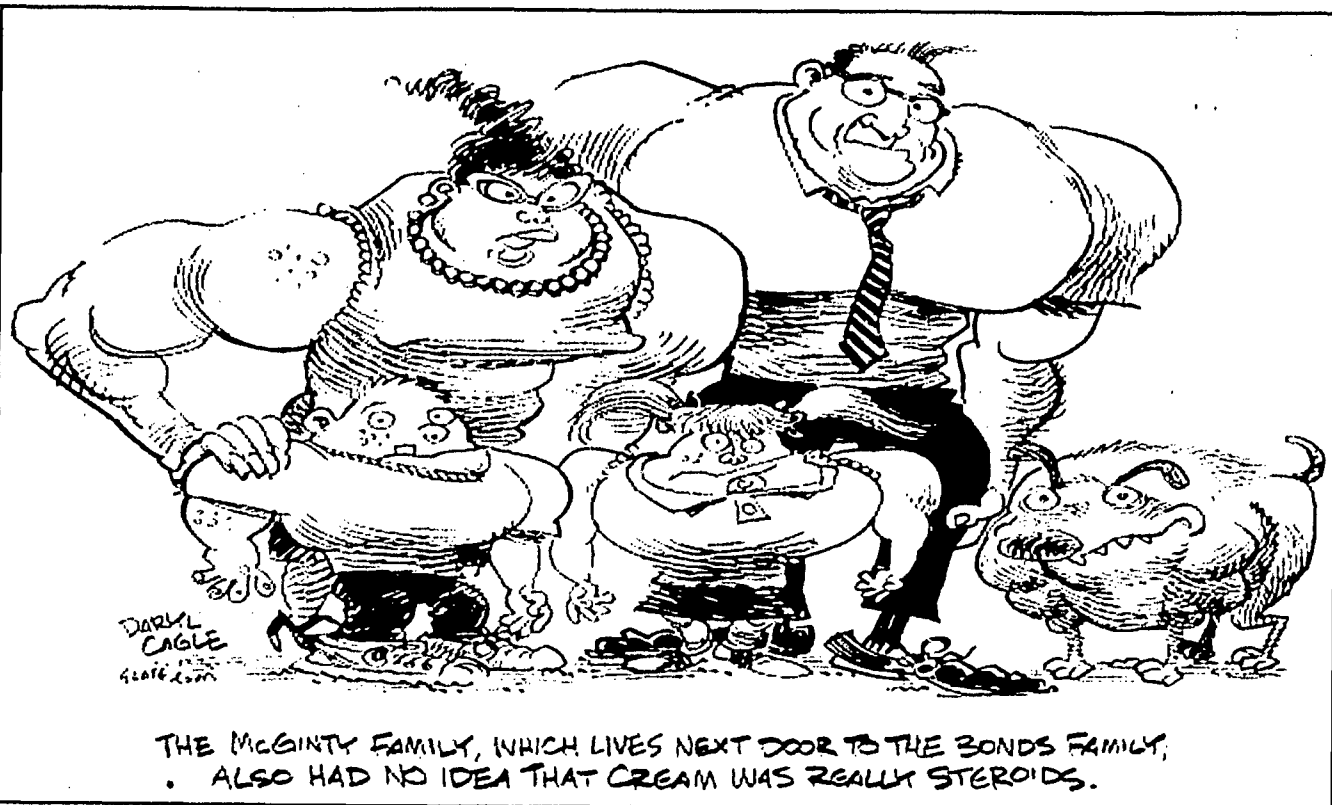
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erring to the Dec. 2 article about the ersity comes up short in the Baldrige the University didn't lose to Monfort because of a lack of comparative test ne University loses when the judging any comes to our setting and meets mpous, self-serving president. It cost versity tens of thousands of dollars to and go through the program to win ard. Money that could be better spent n something for the University."

rding "Northwest seals Biopharming ve" in the Dec. 2 issue) The first 25,000 could easily be contracted to three or rge operators and be of more value to arms. Corporate farming is not good for Northwest Missouri or America."

l good, the University is now going to r the growing of genetically mutated rice barley. Well, I guess anything for a buck."

s Note: If you would like your entire ge printed, please keep statements brief.



EBay: the new Santa Claus this season

Sure, it's not going to give me lung cancer or require me to call a 1-800 help line, but I'm not going to lie, it's an addiction nonetheless.

This new obsession that I'm now facing consists of only four little letters, but it's simple name doesn't do justice to the new world of online buying to which it's opened my eyes.

EBay came into my life this week as a last-chance effort to find the perfect Christmas gift for one of my sisters—a Minnesota Vikings jersey. Unfortunately she only let me in on this gift request last week, so I started desperately looking for one the day she asked.

It actually became a fun little mission, something to do to keep my mind off of studying. But it soon morphed into a necessity; I needed to find her that jersey.

I'm the big sister; it's my job to do whatever I can to provide for my little sisters at Christmas. Making them smile has become one of my favorite parts of the season.

So there I was, with a wish but without a provider. I checked the obvious outlets; nfl.com, minnesotavikings.com, etc. but purchasing a jersey from one of these would have required me to sell one

My View



Stephanie Suckow

of my eggs, and that doesn't sound like the best option.

Enter EBay.

With the words "Vikings jersey" typed into the search engine, my hopes were reinstated. Here I was with option after option of affordable jerseys of all different sizes.

Now the fun of the bidding process began. I had no idea how intriguing it would be to fight with someone I'd never met on a price of something that I can only see a one-inch photo of. To tell you the truth, this is the portion of the process that I haven't yet mastered, but I'm still learning. For example, I've learned that you shouldn't get your hopes up on a bid unless there's only an hour left. I learned this the hard way and got burned

my first time around by williamc7416 with 30 seconds left in the round.

One more tip; don't take it personally when you lose. At first it was hard for me to see the words "you didn't win" blaring across my account summary screen. Personally I think they could phrase this a little differently, perhaps, "I apologize but you didn't quite make it." But I digress.

Now I'm addicted to checking my personal bid every three seconds and watching for new items as they are placed in my viewing area. No matter where I am, it's what I'm thinking about. I've even sunk to the level of having friends watch what I want and call me the second the bid raises, it's actually kind of sad now that I read that back to myself. Oh well, again, at least it's not filling my lungs with tar, right?

Well, unfortunately, this story doesn't have a happy ending as of yet because the jersey situation hasn't quite been resolved, but I'm still having fun trying. And even if the jersey doesn't pan out, turns out you can get silver watches, Kelly Clarkson bracelets and an engagement ring from this computer wonderland. All things I need and will get, as long as williamc7416 stays out of my way.

Public schools offer inappropriate life lessons

Reader, be advised: blatant, angry, free thought contained herein.

Anyone who declares affirmative action racist is generally labeled a racist bigot. If a man honestly evaluates a female soldier as physically unfit for the rigors of combat, he's a pure misogynist.

More recently, an Athens, Ga., principal expressed his support for prayer to be allowed in public schools—and attempted to generate dialogue among students—by reading a poem over the intercom to the student body. In the poem, the author ponders why it is that our public schools care greatly about promoting the distribution of condoms and birth control, pregnant prom queens, and students with body piercings, but maintain as taboo even the discussion of allotting a moment for students to bow their heads in silent prayer, if they so wish.

Here's an excerpt:

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen, And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King. It's "inappropriate" to teach right from wrong. We're taught that such "judgments" do not belong. We can get our condoms and birth controls. Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles. But the Ten Commandments are not allowed. No word of God must reach this crowd.

He was promptly accused of offensively violating the separation of church and state.

Though this principal did issue an apology after receiving several complaints from parents, he owed none. All he did was peacefully stand up for his beliefs and showed some strength in his conviction.

My View



Sean Comer

tions—lessons our schools owe it to our kids to teach. He set the example by caring enough about something not to remain silent about it.

A few elections ago, weren't we supposed to have learned some big lessons about apathy? All this man was trying to do was make absolutely sure they were instilled in this kids before they graduated.

Oh, but what a spectacular message those parents sent to their kids instead: it's perfectly alright to speak up when you see injustice and inequity—unless there's a remote chance you might hurt someone's feelings.

Frankly, so what if he addressed his opinions to a very particular audience that sees where he's coming from, while inadvertently addressing another that completely disagrees? When boiled right down, he's on about the same level as the talking heads of Fox News and Dan Rather in terms of voicing a very public bias. In Rather's case, he forced is bias on people who tuned in naively expect-

ing unbiased reporting from a professional journalist.

All this principal did was cut out the middle-man.

For that matter, the real world doesn't censor itself for the good of every offended individual. This is a lesson in reality: you can't always avoid things with which you disagree sharply. Sometimes, you have to confront your uncomfortable surroundings instead of running away to hide and cry about your wounded feelings.

But there's a great concern here, no doubt. Our country extends first amendment protections to groups including, but not limited to: the Nazi party, the Ku Klux Klan, and Southern Baptists screaming, in mass, that God apparently hates gays. But a school principal can't publicly support school prayer.

In New York, public dollars were spent to renovate an entire public school to be tailored particularly to gay students, a narrow minority. But it's prayer in our schools that's somehow offensive and discriminatory.

Contrary to what you've all probably concluded, this is not a plea for prayer to be allowed in schools. In the big picture, it has nothing to do with prayer. It has to do with my utter disgust and dismay that our schools can deal directly with teen pregnancy and promiscuity, goth culture, and gun-toting victims of bullying, but it's peaceful, silent prayer, of all things, that's the taboo subject.

Suddenly, home-schooling does seem to make total sense

YOUR VIEW

What would your ultimate Christmas present be?



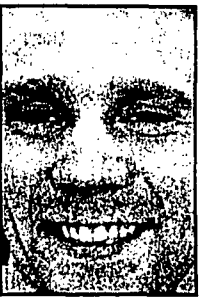
"A brand new, pimped out Escalade with 24 inch rims that spin even when the car isn't moving. And you can't forget about the neon purple light kit."

Brandi Wilmes
Broadcasting



"A new CD player for my car to replace my current boombox. It's really sweet and all, but the batteries run out weekly."

Christie Taylor
Advertising



"He already came. Jesus was and is the greatest Christmas present. After all, it is named after him. Not to be cliché, but Jesus is the reason for the season."

Darrick Coutts
Education



"I want a home for every puppy. And a really big pound of Swedish fish."

Jordan Wilcox
Math/
Computer
Science



"I really want a president who's not an idiot. I guess I'll have to settle for Christmas with Dr. Fun."

Dave Cilsbee
English

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Letters are limited to 250 words due to space constraints. All letters must be signed; students should include their major. The Missourian reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Dictating decoration



PHOTO BY EMILY JACKSON/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pauline and Bob Gross decorate their house at Market and Grant streets for the upcoming holiday season. "I'm the boss!" Pauline said jokingly as she instructs her husband on where to hang the Christmas ornaments. Bob was more than willing to comply.

Gas report in error; Aquila's price will remain through winter months

By DENNIS SHARKEY
Missourian Reporter

Last month's increase in natural gas rates by Aquila may have not been needed.

An error in information provided by the federal Energy Information Administration last month is what led to increases in the purchased gas adjustment that Aquila charges its customers.

The mistake was made when the EIA reported that 49 billion cubic feet had been withdrawn from storage, when in fact only 17 billion cubic feet were withdrawn, leading officials to believe that not as much was in stock as previously thought. When the mistake was made the price of natural gas shot up to 87 cents per 100 cubic feet. After the revised numbers were released by the EIA the price dropped to 67 cents per 100 cubic feet.

Regardless of the mistake, George Minter, spokesman for Aquila doesn't think a decrease in the PGA is in the future.

"It's not going to change at this point," Minter said. "At this point we don't plan to file. We just entered the

winter and we don't know yet."

Minter says that the hardest winter months are ahead of us still and the market could change.

"We historically have seen increases in the months of January and February," Minter said. "This very well could affect next year, so we'll just have to see what develops. We hope it goes back down again and it stays lower, because it's in the best interest of our customers."

The EIA gets its information for its weekly reports from data that are turned in by respondents who operate underground reserves of natural gas. The exact reason for the discrepancy in the report is not exactly clear due to the EIA's complete confidentiality of its respondents. This is to ensure that no data can be accidentally released, and the respondents' network is not connected to the EIA's network to avoid hackers.

"We received an error in the data that was reported to us," said EIA spokesman Jonathan Cogan. "We don't know what the actual cause is because of the confidentiality."

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America thinks that making the report a

daily routine as opposed to a report would be beneficial to consumers but just another expense for producers.

"The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission actually supported the report, but the pipe lines and storage facilities were against it," said IECADent Paul Cicio. "It's just more we would have to do."

Cicio hopes with this recent congress will make moves to change EIA's policies.

"We hope with this last error FERC will follow up," Cicio said. "Every reason to be optimistic there."

Cicio also believes that rising over the last two years has led companies to cut back their demand sources and that it has led to outsourcing of jobs. Cicio also said if manufacturers had not cut back demand we would be in a shortage.

"Manufactures have lowered demand because they can't compete," Cicio said. "So production has fallen off in two years."

"This is the highest rates of gas in the world, and it's continuing to offshoring," Cicio said.

No violations of new keg tag law

By JARED HOFFMANN
Chief Reporter

Since the Missouri Keg Tag law took effect last July, law enforcement officials have seen little to no changes with regards to underage drinking.

The law requires that any individual who purchases a keg must fill out a waiver making them fully responsible for anyone who drinks from that keg — including minors.

According to Maryville Public Safety Director Keith Wood, no arrests or fines have occurred in connection with the keg tag law.

"We have made no arrests whatsoever," Wood said. "I do think it has the potential. It can be a valuable tool if we use it correctly."

One concern of local alcohol distributors such as Hy-Vee and Wal-Mart was that the keg tag law would put a damper on the number of kegs purchased. But, according to Wal-Mart Supercenter Manager Lonnie Scheffe, the reduced sales are not enough to make anyone worry.

"Sales have slowed down some," Scheffe said. "When we sell a keg we present them with the law and explain to them that they are totally responsible for any minors who drink from the keg."

Scheffe said the decline in keg sales is most likely counteracted by sales of other forms of alcohol.

"I think the kids are probably buying more single stuff than kegs now," Scheffe said.

Scheffe said in a previous interview that a dip in keg sales is worth the effect that the law will have on under-age drinking.

"The law has slowed keg sales down," Scheffe said. "But to us it's a good thing, it's taken the responsibility off us and solely onto the individual who bought the keg."

Flu vaccine shortage misses counties

By SEAN COMER
Buzz Assignment Editor

Within the next two months, Missouri will receive its final shipments of influenza vaccine. However, according to Nodaway County Health Center Administrator Della Rhoades, Nodaway County was one of the only fortunate counties to have received every allotted dose.

"The DHSS has done a very good job of keeping a pulse of all the county health departments who turned in status reports of the need for flu vaccines across the state," Rhoades said. "There are people in the county who are not immunized that we wish we could have, but we've honored the CDC guidelines."

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control, 100,148 doses will be distributed to Missouri healthcare providers this month, with the final 36,095 doses arriving in January.

Like the rest of the United States, Missouri will have to cope with a notable shortage of the vaccine. Chiron, the British manufacturer that previously produced around 50 million doses, was officially deemed unfit to continue production by the British government on Oct. 5. Aventis Pasteur stepped in to produce the vaccine.

The announcement came near the beginning of flu season, at which point Missouri had received about half of its expected allotment.

"There has been a lot of effort since this all started," said Sue Denny, health education and information specialist with the Department of Health and Senior Services. "The first thing that happened was the advisory committee on immunization practices changed the recommendation to recommend only people who should receive this season were those at high risk to contract influenza."

"High-risk" patient categories include the elderly, especially those with medical conditions; children aged 6 months; healthcare workers and home caregivers, and pregnant women.

"We've been working almost nonstop to make sure Missouri receives every dose of vaccine available and is used to us," said Dick Dunn, DHS director, in a recent press release.

Missouri may have lucked out opposed to last year's unexpected active flu season, thus far only widely-scattered cases have been reported, Denny said. However, it is too early to judge the severity of this year's season, as flu season doesn't begin until February.

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CONTINUED from 1A

State legislators show support for biopharming impact

from Sacramento, Calif. to Maryville, in turn launching Northwest's biopharming initiative—named for the combination of biology, pharmacology, and farming. The Maryville operation is slated to be off the ground in 18 months. Renovation has already begun at Ventria's future facility, the AC Lighting building east of Maryville.

The meeting, organized by Rep. Brad Lager, (R-Maryville), and Klindt, (R-Bethany), was designed to inform and mobilize state resources in support of Ventria's mission—to grow and process crops in the state, processed ultimately for the use of plant-based pharmaceuticals.

The technological, economic and educational implications of the initiative, most acknowledged, had the potential to be unlike any community,

region and state have seen. While remaining cautiously realistic, Tom Urban, chairman of Ventria's Board of Directors, said Ventria's livelihood could not only affect the future of science, but also the continuously rising cost of pharmaceuticals.

"There are a lot of things we can't produce, but there are a lot of things we can produce that are much less expensive than present production," Urban said. "That, in turn, could have big long-term effects."

While few legislators acknowledged skepticism for genetically modified crops—the process has come under fire by some that say it's unethical, Ventria executives say their process does not fall under the same label. Legislators agree and support that stance.

"We're not actually raising grain,"

Klindt said of the crops from which hybrid proteins will be extracted. "We're raising a protein, and that's what makes this operation different."

And, while excited for the potential the new partnerships has, other legislators remained wary of much of their constituency—the Missouri family farmer.

While Rep. Wes Shoemyer (D-Clarence), a farmer himself, ensured his would be a "very watchful eye to ensure economic justice in the process," he also remained enthusiastic, and held no doubt that growing the crops in question—in this case, rice and barley—would be no problem for scientists and willing farmers alike.

"It's Missouri," he said. "When they start figuring the weather out, I promise you they can grow them."

Merry Christmas Merry Christmas

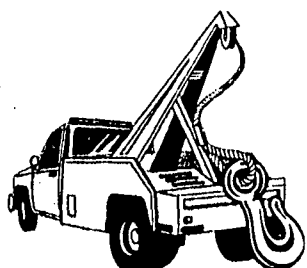
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Grant supplies funds to achieve dreams

BY SARAH SWEDBERG
University News Editor

Asrat Geleta never thought he would be attending college in Missouri. The Ethiopia native, who moved to Texas after his dad established citizenship in order to work as a pharmacist, planned on attending community college in the Lone Star

State. "I could go to school in Texas and get a scholarship to go to a community college, but my goal from high school was to go to a University," Geleta said.

With the help of his friend and brother Troy Stende, a professional speaker and high impact person who visited Northwest last year, Bryan VanOsdale, Campus Activities director and Northwest administrators, Geleta arrived in Missouri four days after he decided to enroll in the University.

Within 48 hours of talking to him about Northwest, he was accepted, we set him out a schedule and got him enrolled," VanOsdale said.

More importantly, the American Dream Grant allowed for Geleta to begin his college career at Northwest in both academics and athletics.

"My whole understanding of the American Dream Grant is it's for people who couldn't come to this school because of financial reasons," Geleta said.

The grant lends a hand to students who qualify and meet Northwest's admissions standards.

These students receive tuition, room and board, use of a computer and primary textbooks. It's a needs-based program and is renewable for a second year.

The only cost to students is \$1,500 for each of the two years—an amount equal to working during the school year for 10 hours a week at minimum wage.

"It's helped me come to Missouri to experience a new lifestyle," Geleta said.

Four days after Geleta and VanOsdale spoke on the phone, he arrived by plane and a Maryville taxi with all of his belongings to campus. "It was one of the most incredible



PHOTO BY EMILY JACKSON/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman Asrat Geleta stretches at a recent morning workout for track and field. He walked on to the Bearcat men's team this year and he plans to run cross country next year.

things, to see him step foot on this campus," VanOsdale said. "He's exactly what this program is about."

Before coming to Northwest, Geleta lived at the Methodist Home, a group home in Texas where kids with delinquent or financial problems live. He chose to live there after his dad moved to Florida, because he wanted to stay in Texas.

When Geleta is not in class or attending cross country or track and

field practice, he works at the Performing Arts Center. His involvement in Phi Delta Theta has also helped him in his quest to achieve a college education.

"Bryan VanOsdale has been here for me since I've come here," Geleta said. "I asked him what I could do to pay him back for what he did for me and he said just graduate, so that's my main goal, is to graduate."

Sarah Swedberg can be reached at 562-1224 or by e-mail at s215267@mail.nwmissouri.edu

Hillel offers students community of faith

BY KIMBERLY BRAND
Missourian Reporter

College campuses exist as distinct communities, as people from an array of backgrounds bond to form a unique society through discoveries of common passions, stresses and ideas.

The campus can be like home and hall-mates can grow close, but some deep-rooted values prove harder to maintain while students live away from home. Northwest student organizations give many opportunities for students to connect, including sharing their faith.

"I miss the Jewish community," said sophomore Wendi Nevels. While removed from her hometown of St. Louis, "Hillel gives me a kind of home away from home."

Hillel, an international foundation for Jewish campus life, established a Northwest chapter this semester. All Jewish students, or students interested in Judaism, can be involved in the group. Faculty Advisor Roy Schwartzman, associate professor of communication, explained that Hillel does not conform to pre-assumed guidelines.

"Hillel is whatever the students want it to be," Schwartzman said. "Basically, it's just a place where students can have a place for open discussions and feel comfortable with each other in a supportive environment."

The first Hillel group formed in 1923 at the University of Illinois. Currently, groups meet in the United States,

Canada, the former U.S.S.R., Australia, Latin America and Israel.

The organization's name honors Rabbi Hillel, a first-century religious leader known for his interpretations and applications of the Jewish faith. He focused on religion as a human practice, rather than on the stridency of Biblical law.

"It's that sense of adaptability, and the idea that holy law as something that is also human, that makes it appropriate that (Hillel) would be the namesake of this college-type organization," Schwartzman said. "The founders had in mind that they wanted to honor his ideals because he is very much admired."

Hillel also emphasized love for others and universal tolerance, ideas applicable to diverse college environments.

Jewish students can access Hillel's fellowship and to practice religious customs while distanced from their families and synagogues. Nevels, vice-president of the Northwest Hillel, said that the group attends synagogue in St. Joseph.

"It's a way to stay connected, with each other and with our faith," she said.

Northwest gained official organization status of Hillel in fall 2003 by submitting paperwork and meeting approval from Student Senate. The group of about five students now aims to gain more members and more active status.

"(Northwest's) Hillel is just getting the ball rolling," said current president Katie Miller.

Biopharming initiative not to affect UM merger—yet; state legislators visit

Weakness, it's not a simple topic. It tends itself to a straight up answer," Hubbard said. Biopharming is so far out on the edge of technology and pharmacology that we need all the help we can get, and that help if there's a merger or could a merger make some of that. It might, and that's a question we have to grapple with—but we have to grapple with it right now." Hubbard has been in contact with the president Elson Floyd and has had an informal lunch in the past to discuss the merger. Floyd

and UM officials told Hubbard that they were completely behind the biopharming initiative and that it in no way would affect a possible merger. Also, in a recent discussion with Ventria bioscience executives—the company behind the biopharming initiative—Hubbard inquired about possible repercussions a merger might have on the biopharming project. He was told the merger had no bearing on the company's commitment to Northwest.

"We'll see on down the road what happens," Hubbard said. "But as far as doing what we promised Ventria—

we can do it. This company will thrive working with Northwest regardless."

Rep. Brad Lager co-sponsored the legislation for the merger during the last legislative term and said that he that hasn't been contacted by either university about the merger.

"We have not been asked or requested by anyone at this point to move the merger or to even work that process," Lager said. "(University officials) have been 100 percent focused and committed to (bringing biopharming to Northwest)."

Prefiling for legislation has begun for the Missouri House and Senate. Bills to change the name of Missouri Western College to Missouri Western University and the changing of Southwest Missouri State University to Missouri State University have already filled.

During last year's legislative term, a merger amendment was added to the bill for the name change of Southwest Missouri State, but was shot down by lawmakers before even making it to the House floor. Lager was a co-sponsor of the bill and has been actively involved with the merger.

The fight for life: Maryville mother works to help find a cure for diabetes

Type 1 diabetes in mice is a grassroots effort with people in different states that are appointed as state captains. We have other fund-raising initiatives that Faustman comes and speaks at initiatives," she said. "All the raised goes to her research. Faustman reaches \$11 million and she can start human clinical trials which is a three-year trial with the Iacocca Foundation's

sponsorship, led by Lee Iacocca, the former chief of Chrysler who's wife died in 1983 as a result of type 1 complications. Faustman and her colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital have identified the defects in the immune system. These defects are involved in the destruction of insulin-producing cells and they are working to develop a therapy that stops the autoimmune system from attacking these cells.

The cure for diabetes could be

found in the BCG (bacille Calmette-Guerin) vaccine, which is usually given to small children in some countries to immunize them against tuberculosis. In animal experiments, such as mice, BCG does seem to be protective against diabetes, but researchers have not been able to translate this benefit to humans.

"Dr. Faustman's research makes sense and I have always believed that the body has the ability to heal

itself and just to show that there's actual proof of that, it's just amazing," Smith said.

In early spring, Smith will host the Bling Bling Ball for Diabetes to kick-off her and her committee's initiative to help raise \$11 million for Faustman's research for a cure. The formal event will include guest speaker Faustman, who will present her research and a silent auction. For more information you can log on to www.joinleenow.org

Emergency stations to improve campus security, response time

BY ANDY TIMKO
Chief Reporter

While continually striving to improve the Culture of Quality, Northwest is also focusing on the necessity to give its students a safe learning environment.

By the time that students leave for summer break, five of the six proposed emergency stations will be up and running around campus.

"We've been working on it for the last three or four years," Campus Safety Director Clarence Green said. "It addresses some concerns students had raised about feeling more safe on campus."

The stations are common on many universities around the United States and, in an effort to increase the security and make response time quicker, Northwest has decided to

install stations of their own.

One of the deciding factors to bring the stations to campus were the long walks that students have to make to get to the library or the other side of campus when they walk home.

"There are phones in a lot of buildings, but we want to try to put some phones around campus," Green said. "A lot of people make that walk from the library to the east campus and Roberta Hall. It's dark in that area also so we'll have one that's centrally located so it'll help out if we have some issues that arise."

The stations consist of a blue light and an emergency phone that has a direct link to Campus Safety. If the button is pushed, the light will turn on and Campus Safety headquarters will be notified of the location that has the emergency.

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BY STEPHANIE STANGL
Features Editor



Christmas

As she hangs the ornaments on her tree, wraps her presents and sends out her Christmas cards, something is missing.

This will be the first Christmas Northwest senior Erin Drummond has spent away from her fiancé in nearly six years.

Drummond's fiancé Aaron Dennis has been deployed to Germany as a military officer for nearly a year. He will not be one of the few lucky troops selected to receive their leave at Christmas time.

He wasn't supposed to be able to come home last year either, but then, in an unexpected turn of events, he returned for three days just in time to celebrate the holidays.

This year, they aren't as fortunate.

"Not knowing when he's going to get back has been the hardest," Drummond said. "I think once we find out for when he is going to return, it will be easier. Until that point, I'm just waiting to see when the Army's going to be finished with him."

One event exists just for people like Drummond.

"Blue Christmas," a worship service started by the First Christian Church in Maryville is centered around the idea that Christmas is not always as happy as it could be for people.

When an unusual number of deaths left some members of the church grieving around Christmas last year, the Rev. Lee Yates and the staff of the church decided they needed a worship service to address and help deal with those issues.

"I don't think there is anyone that gets through the holidays without being sad that something has changed," Yates said. "I want people to know that it's OK to share how you really feel. You don't have to pretend that you are merry at Christmas if you really aren't."

Drummond recently traveled to Germany to see her fiancé over Thanksgiving break. In a hotel on his Army base, they exchanged gifts so they could have some sort of Christmas together.

But it simply wasn't the same.

"I see people who are with their families and it makes me miss him that much more," Drummond said. "I feel worse for him than I do myself because at least I have my family here with me."

Drummond is saddened by how often people take their loved ones for granted over the holidays.

"I hear people complaining all the time about having to buy a gift for another family member," Drummond said. "People don't realize how different it is when you don't even have the person here to buy the gift for."

With the second annual "Blue Christmas" service quickly approaching at 7 p.m. Dec. 15, Yates predicts that many people will return to revive a sense of hope around the holidays once again this year.

"I think a lot of people really enjoyed the service and will be back this

year," Yates said. "My guess is that this year many people will bring someone with them. I think a lot of them will be reaching out to friends who are dealing with different emotions this Christmas and let them know there is a service where they can express those feelings."

With communion offered, scriptures read and songs sung, "Blue Christmas" is very similar to many other worship services. Whether it is in memory of someone who has passed or for grief of a family that has been divided by divorce, everyone is invited to come forward and light a candle to help cope with the hardship.

This year, Yates is also going to set aside time for a separate prayer in which people have a chance to contemplate "Secret Hurts." These are things that a person hasn't been able to share yet, can't find words for or don't feel that people would listen to.

"Some of the greatest burdens people carry are the burdens that they carry alone," Yates said. "We are trying to incorporate into the service time for silent reflection for those folks to share their thoughts with at least God. If they can start sharing it in their prayers maybe they can start sharing it with friends and family members who can help them."

During the first service last year, some people wept, while others simply sat and reminisced. A few found a way to smile through it all, comforted by the thought that they were finally not alone.

"It's not just a service of moping," Yates said. "We look for hope also."

SSM Hospice in Maryville held a similar service Dec. 5, but it was reserved to help mourn the loss of family members who were aided by the hospice in their final days. Family members and the public were invited to a candlelight vigil to help bring closure to the families.

"I don't think anyone gets through the holidays without being sad that something has changed. You don't have to pretend that you are merry at Christmas if you really aren't."

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Be reasonable. Spend in moderation. A lot of people can't spend what they'd like on gifts, or they spend more than they can afford. Either way, it's depressing.

Get some rest. Don't try to do more than you can comfortably do. Watch your time, and schedule some breaks for peace and quiet. Also, share your load with someone else.

Source: www.applesforhealth.com/holidayblues1.htm

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Men have no problem with Central

By BRENDAN KELLEY
Missourian Reporter

The Northwest men's basketball team had something to smile about for the first twenty minutes. The 'Cats held a 42-18 lead and appeared to have everything under control.

The 'Cats kept their focus and avoided a mental letdown, walking away with an 85-53 victory over Central Bible College.

The 'Cats played a great first half in which they only allowed 18 points, but in the second half, Central Bible found a way to pick up their production and scored 35 points.

"We played a good game, but I

still feel like we let down in the second half," said Austin Meyer. "They ran some screens and got a lot of open threes on us."

Central Bible beat themselves by turning the ball over a total of 25 times, and allowing the Cats to score 22 points from turnovers.

Northwest was not perfect either, turning the ball over 15 times and allowing Central Bible to score 17 points from turnovers.

"We did a good job of forcing turnovers," Joel Osborn said. "We can't turn the ball over so much though; it will hurt us against better teams."


There were times when Central

Up Next

Sunday, 4 p.m.

Bearcat Arena

CLARKE
CRUSADERS



Bible showed some spark, but the outcome of the game was never in serious doubt.

"Central Bible is very well coached team, coach Hanson gets a lot out of his players," coach Steve Tappmeyer said. "We would dominate for a while

and as soon as we would let down our level of intensity they would bang in a couple of shots and beat us to rebounds."

Northwest had a balanced attack with seven guys scoring nine points

Please see 'Men' page 2B



PHOTO BY STEVE SERRANO/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Tappmeyer gives direction to the Bearcats during a timeout against Central Bible College Monday. The Bearcats blew past their non-conference opponent with a 85-53 victory. Northwest is back in action Sunday afternoon against Clarke College.

"They are learning something new every day and it forces the coaches to learn something new every day. So this group won't ever get stale"

-Head Coach Gene Steinmeyer

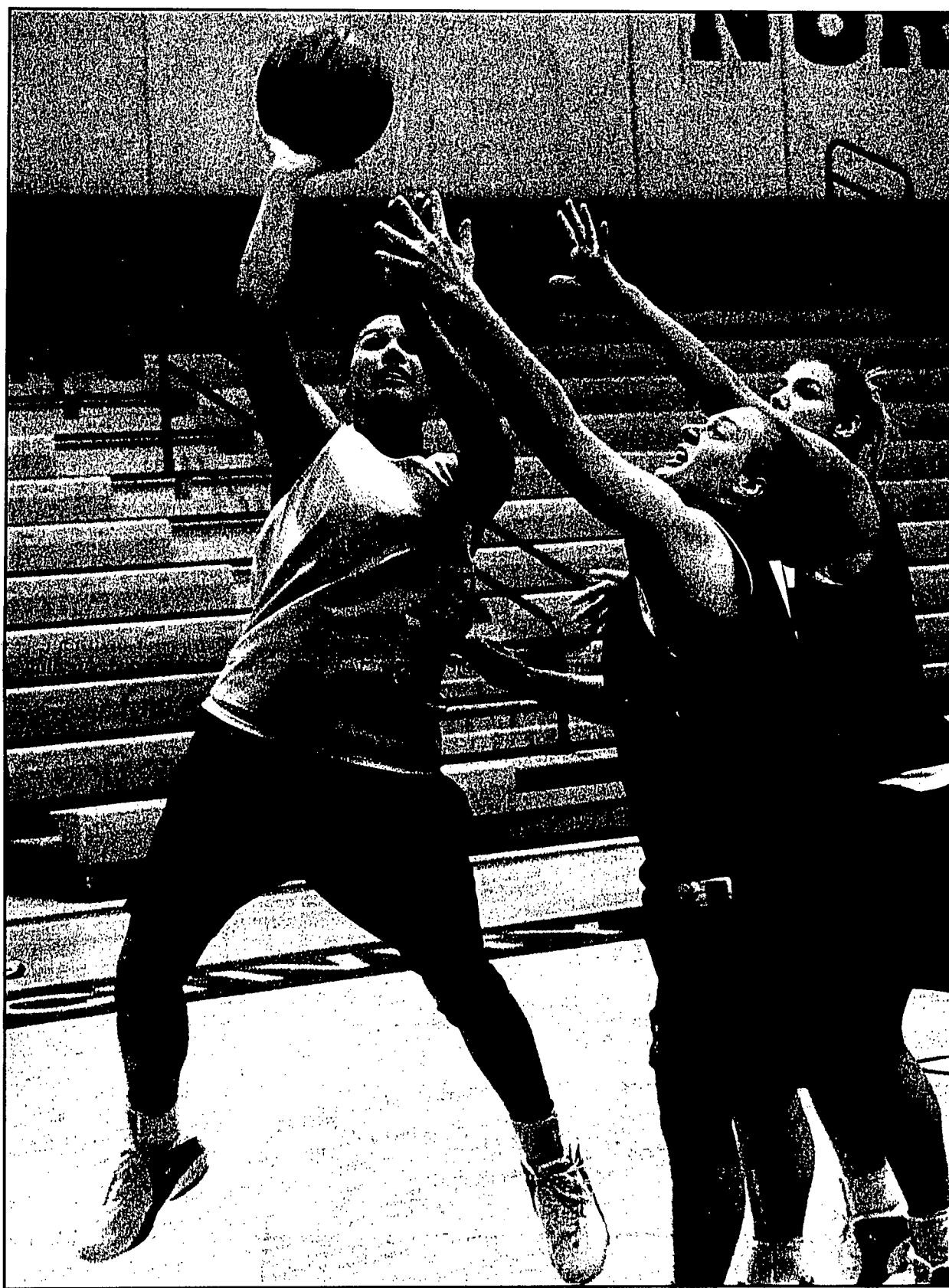


PHOTO BY STEVE SERRANO/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman Lauren Williams goes to the basket against senior Ashely Poptanycz and freshman Chelsea Ernzen in practice this week. Freshmen comprise the majority of the Bearcats team this year. Northwest faces off against Nebraska-Omaha this Saturday.

Leading
Rebounder

Chelsea
Ernzen
5.9 rpg

Leading
3-point
shooter
Meghan
Brue
46.7 pct.

Leading
Scorer
Megan
Hamilton
7.4 ppg

FRESH NEW FACES

By KRISTINE HOTOP
Missourian Reporter

There's just a bit of difference from taking warm-up shots during high school to holding the ball minutes before the buzzer announces the beginning of the first collegiate basketball game of the season.

Looking around the stands at the myriad of students, television cameras and sports announcers can bring butterflies to any player's stomach; especially to a first-time witness—a freshman.

"Our first game was at Iowa State; that was a really big deal; it was crazy. They are Division I, so just being there to play was really nerve-racking," freshman Megan Hamilton said. "Then came our first home game; it was kind of depressing because we didn't come out ahead, but playing in front of that many people was something."

A new season brings a new team, literally. Joining the four returning players are 12 freshmen, adding a new zeal of talent to the group. Having a team comprised mostly of freshmen can be difficult when dealing with uniting upperclassmen and allowing the newcomers to find their niche with the other girls.

"It's refreshing as a coach to have this many newcomers because it's starting over. Sometimes when you have a veteran team, it's hard to see remarkable improvement," head coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "Last year I think we did; we played our best ball at the end of the year, but that normally doesn't happen; players get stale, coaches get stale, but that never happens with a group like this."

"They are learning something new every day and it forces the coaches to learn something new every day. So this group won't ever get stale, especially this year."

Bond Fires:

Thanks to delicious barbecues and personal gatherings at Steinmeyer's house during Family Day, the girls got to understand each other on another level, outside of practice. He believes that the players have to take part in unifying the team themselves, because no one can force chemistry between teammates.

Please see 'Freshman' page 2B

HS ns thout actice

es leads team to
season wins,
25 in opener

MEGAN CRAWFORD
Missourian Reporter

By 15 days of practice as a Maryville High School basketball team has sealed the season, starting off with

le traveled to Atchison, Mo., to play Maur Hill Prep in the first game of the season. The team played a game that ended in a final score of 58-55. The team was down by five points at the end of the third quarter. The team stepped up and, in the major plays, outscored the opposition 10-12 in the final quarter. The team didn't have a very good first half, Josh Wilmes said. "But we were ready to play in the second half. Garin Blair, Morgan Myles Burnsides all made important shots."

and Blair each hit crucial shots in the fourth quarter. The team stepped up and hit two more shots. John Hart sank two shots that sealed the deal for the team. The team won the game. The team led the game in scoring.

ed more time to practice," said. "We're not where we want to be at right now. With more practice we'll be as good as last year." The team played Auburn in a game last Friday and brought home a victory of the season 65-40. Burn was a big win for the team. John Raffel put in a strong bucket at the end. The team led the game against Auburn up 25 points.

Hounds played South Dakota on Monday night with a victory 30-34. Wilmes again led the team with 18 points.

ave a tough game on Friday against LeBlond," Coach Mike Steinmeyer said. "The team has come a long way and we keep improving." The team plays LeBlond at 7 p.m. on Saturday at St. Joseph.

Coach concerned with prolonging rivalry

By JEROME BOETTCHER
Assistant Sports Editor

that has turned into a non-conference rivalry might end Saturday afternoon.

The Northwest women's basketball team will face off against the University of Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks for the 21st time in the schools' history Saturday. Unfortunately for Northwest, the Mavericks have shown no signs of ending the rivalry after this

is a new coach and she wants her schedule and she doesn't want to

use the old coach's schedule," Steinmeyer said. "I don't think she realizes what a nice little rivalry it was for all of us."

Steinmeyer hinted in a post-game interview last week that he thought Omaha wanted to "get (Northwest) this year, when they're freshmen and get out of it when these freshmen mature."

The reason for the possible end to the series is unknown but Steinmeyer still hopes it pumps up his team against the Mavericks.

"I hope so, it's got me kind of fired

up about it," Steinmeyer said. "I'm a little bit upset about it."

Northwest will enter the game coming off of a seven-game homestand in which they won five straight games. The Bearcats (5-3) will be playing the Mavericks (5-3) for the fifth straight season.

The Bearcats won their last game of their homestand Friday when they beat Peru State 90-55. Freshman Megan Hamilton led all scorers with 14 points. Sophomore Katie O'Grady followed closely behind with 13 points. Hamilton and O'Grady com-

bined to make seven out of the team's eleven three-pointers. Northwest attempted 33 three-pointers, something Steinmeyer is not concerned about.

"Well, (Peru) played zone and we're going to average 25 threes a game," Steinmeyer said. "Black and white, we're a perimeter team. If we don't average 25 threes a game, then we're probably not going to win the game."

The team is averaging 75.1 points per game and 19.75 three-pointers attempted.

Steinmeyer believes his team's turnaround started when they trailed by

five points to visiting Columbia College and instead of going to 1-4 they won their second straight game to put them at 2-3.

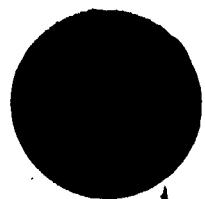
"(It was) a little bit of a pressure cooker against Columbia College because they came in with a win over (Pittsburg State) on the road and we knew we would have a tough time with them," Steinmeyer said. "Then we got down by five at half and we're looking at an (1-4) start and that's not a real good thing. But boy our kids really came back and at one point we

Please see 'Mavericks' page 2B

Up Next



Saturday 2 p.m.
Nebraska-Omaha



CONTINUED from 1B

Fresh faces fill young squad for Bearcats

Fortunately for Steinmeyer, he has several assistant coaches that have helped tremendously in supporting the girls' bonding experiences.

"I have to give my assistant coaches a lot of credit; they certainly do a nice job of deflecting problems that could arise," Steinmeyer said. "Upperclassmen have been through both phases; good times and bad times as far as chemistry goes. They know how important it is for everyone to get along."

As captain of the freshman-laden team, senior Ashely Poptanycz will have the opportunity to lead the girls. Alongside Poptanycz, juniors Laura Friederich and Meghan Blay and assistants Emily Elkin, Stephanie Dieso and Clinton Woods will also assist in the team's victories as well as helping the freshmen adjust to college basketball life.

"The older girls were really helpful from the first day and even now they are always there helping us. They are completely supportive because they know that we are what they have, a lot of freshmen," Hamilton said. "They teach us a lot and it's extremely helpful to have them there, even though there aren't very many of them."

Steinmeyer is depending on his four returnees to help the newcomers prepare for this season's games. Since the numerous changes that happen between high school and college basketball will throw a wrench in the workings, he presumes the girls should catch on quickly.

"My senior year in high school we had a lot of young girls, too. I keep reminding myself of that year because that was the year we ended up going to state, so hopefully, everything will be all right," Poptanycz said. "Our assistant coach Lori (Henderson) assured me that even though they are young, they have a



Redshirt freshman April Miller guards freshman Meghan Brue during practice on Tuesday. The play of the freshmen is one reason while the Bearcats have won five straight.

lot of talent so we're going to be okay. She just keeps telling me that we're going to be okay."

Thanks to the effort submitted by Poptanycz and girls, the freshmen have had it relatively easy when it came to connecting to everyone and to the new style of play.

Newcomers: Hopes and dreams aside, coming from a past eight-senior roster will be one of the season's most strenuous tasks. The ups and downs that come along with college ball play a major factor in the work effort on the court.

"Role definition was a big thing with freshmen because each girl is used to being the go-to player in high school," Friederich said. "When you step up to college everyone has to find where they stand and it can be hard for newcomers."

Coming in to a stable program and taking the plunge into it is hard. Being able to stand out of the crowd can be the biggest dilemma, more than ever in a class this large where each player is struggling to be the best.

"This first day, I was really nervous because I was a freshman, but then, everyone was a freshman, so then this didn't seem as bad," Hamilton said. "All the upperclassmen were awesome and that helped out. I was just nervous because you wanted to come in and have everyone watch you and say, 'wow.'"

Steinmeyer explains how coaches and upperclassmen have been through many tough times before and learned how to overcome it, but the new girls have to adjust to the 'roller coaster' moments throughout the season. With the number of newcomers,

he just hopes to keep them on an even keel.

Adding 12 newcomers to the roster, 10 of them being freshmen, Steinmeyer keeps his expectations high, due to the quickness and fast thinking the girls brought with them into the program.

Assuming that they usually get about 25 percent of the freshmen they want, Steinmeyer focused on 10 girls he wanted to bring to the program. To his surprise, six of the ten decided to choose Northwest, leaving him with the decision to take all six or send them off to another school. Steinmeyer's choice proved to be the upper hand, and he took all six talented athletes.

In addition to recruiting players, any coach is happy to host a walk-on, especially if they hold talent to benefit the team. This season, Steinmeyer welcomes 5-foot-4 freshman Kelli Nelson to the team, the only true walk-on for Northwest. Nelson joins the team from Exira, Iowa, and averages 3.6 points and eight steals per game.

"Kelli is our walk-on who just came in late and we didn't have any scholarship money left," Steinmeyer said. "She is our backup point guard and is getting a lot of playing time too. She won't be considered a walk-on for long."

As a walk-on, Nelson takes each moment she has to work on her skills and take in any help players can give.

"At first, I didn't know there was going to be so many freshmen, but it's been great. I really look up to Meghan Blay, she's been a huge influence on me and helping me adjust," Nelson said. "I just go out and try to do my best during the time I get out on the court."

Injuries are always an unfortunate event especially to encoun-

ter ones prior to the season. Newcomer and redshirt freshman Kelsey Homewood is nursing a torn ACL that occurred during a preseason scrimmage.

"I feel bad that I can't play this season," Homewood said. "I just had surgery on it and I am working hard to be ready for next year. It's a good group of girls and I am excited to play with them, hopefully sometime soon."

Straight Expectations:

This season, Steinmeyer doesn't want to focus on it as a rebuilding year. He thinks that doing so is only cheating Poptanycz, his only senior, from her impact on the team in past years.

"Obviously there is going to be some rebuilding this year," Steinmeyer said. "But we are going to get as much out of the season as we can and take as it as far as we can take it. I've coached young teams before, but this is by far the youngest and most talented freshman recruiting class."

Steinmeyer returns from a 24-7 season, in which his girls placed first in the MIAA tournament. Northwest's preseason ranking was set as eighth. Friederich pointed out that the teams main goal is to come into the remainder of the season, shock people and finish the year with a higher ranking.

"It feels good to come in and contribute and be able to help out the other girls. Our leaders are the three upperclassmen so they are expected to do all the scoring, so it's awesome that we can all be there to help them out and be a big part of it all," Hamilton said.

"In four years it's going to be crazy. There are so many of us. Every year is just going to be 10 times better than the year before. I'm really excited about it; it's going to be awesome."

Overall, Steinmeyer looks forward to this season with all hopes of grasping the MIAA tournament crown for the second year in a row, and would like to introduce the freshmen to an exciting four years at Northwest.

"One of the coaches' favorite things to say is as we look out on the floor is 'there's our conference champion team; we just don't know what year yet,'" Steinmeyer said. "As coaches, we aren't hired to finish fourth; we're hired to finish first so that has to be where your expectations start."

"It would be a real upset if that happened to be this year, but obviously that doesn't stop us from trying."

Kristine Hotop can be contacted at (660) 562-1224 or at s255600@mail.nwmissouri.edu.



Jamaica Rector will be one of three Bearcats heading to the Cactus Bowl in Kingsville. Senior linebacker Adam Long and senior kicker Luis Berlanga will also join Rector.

Northwest sends three players to Cactus Bowl in Kingsville

By COLE YOUNG
Sports Editor

Three Northwest standouts will get their opportunity to shine in the Whataburger Cactus Bowl on Jan. 7.

Seniors Adam Long, Gabriel Helms and Luis Berlanga all were selected to the game, which will be held in Kingsville, Texas.

"I am thrilled for all three players and for them to be able to represent Northwest," head coach Mel Tjeerdsmma said. "It is a great honor for them and it speaks a lot about this program. I think the big thing is it is a great opportunity for them because they all have aspirations to play beyond their college days."

Every NFL team will have a scout present so chances for all Division II players to be seen are great.

Berlanga, who is one of two kickers on the roster, set the NCAA all-divisions mark for consecutive PAT's made in a single season with 73. The 2004 All-MIAA First Team selection was honored as a league Special Teams Player of the

Week on three occasions.

The Monterrey, Mexico native played just one season at Northwest. He holds the Northwest mark for points by a kicker in a single season with 122.

Long was named the defensive player of the week after recording 81 tackles, 10 solo tackles.

Helms was first on the team with 10 passes defended and totaled 33 tackles, including 24 solo tackles which tied for sixth on the team. His three interceptions tied for second on the team.

The three join wide receiver Rector as players who have made bowl game.

Rector will play in the Hula Bowl in Waikiki, Maui.

The game, set for Jan. 22, 2005, will feature NCAA Division I and II college football athletes.

Rector joins only Tony Miller, Seth Wand as the only Northwest players that have participated in the Bowl.

CONTINUED from 1B

Mavericks pose next challenge

had outscored them by 25 the second half. That kind of got us on a little bit of a roll."

The series between the Mavericks and Northwest is currently tied at 10 wins apiece.

Steinmeyer believes the team just needs to keep playing like they have been in order to keep the streak going. "We have to keep our transition

game going because don't execute in the half court," he said. "So we have to get early shots and early looks if a team forces to play half-court offense we won't do as near as well. Number one and we've got to defend the post. We've been good, we've defended the post, when we've been bad it's inside has been leaky for us."



Senior Laura Friederich and freshman Chelsea Ernzen guard freshman Julie Bunge during practice on Tuesday. Ernzen and Bunge are two of 10 freshmen on the squad.

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s' Caravan comes to town



PHOTO BY STEVE SERRANO/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

City Royals players Jeff Montgomery and Mike Wood sign autographs for fans Saturday afternoon at the Maryville Hy-Vee. The Royals Caravan was in town to sign autographs. Player David DeJesus and announcer Denny Matthews were present.

Wrestlers to finally start season Saturday

By BILLY BURNS
Missourian Reporter

The Maryville High School wrestling team will face its first test of the year Saturday at Lexington High School.

Coach Joe Drake expects his wrestlers to face a bit of fatigue during the tournament. Most of the team will take on five matches.

"The conditioning thing is probably going to come up and bite us a little bit," Drake said. "Five matches in a day is a load for a well-conditioned wrestler."

The 'Hounds are still struggling to catch up after the majority of their team missed the first couple weeks of prac-

tice due to the football team's run through the playoffs.

The wrestlers were originally scheduled to have their first match Dec. 7 in a home dual against St. Pius X. That dual, along with the Dec. 9th dual at Plattsburg, were rescheduled to allow the late-arriving wrestlers to catch up.

Drake rescheduled the home dual against St. Pius for Feb. 3 and will take his wrestlers to Plattsburg on Feb. 1.

Both schools complied fully with Maryville's request to reschedule.

"Those schools were very cooperative," Drake said. "We're still looking for an official for one of them, though."

Team dual competition begins for Maryville on Dec. 15 at home against Savannah.

Sports In Brief

Bulldogs escape South Harrison with victory

Maryville girls basketball team played with a close win on Monday night, defeating the South Harrison Bulldogs 45-41 in Bethany. In a first quarter tie, the Bulldogs led the contest 25-18 at South Harrison came back

in the third quarter, trailing only by one going into the final stanza. But Maryville held onto the win with a 10-7 advantage in the fourth quarter.

Senior Kelli Dawson and freshman Carley Evans led Maryville with 11 points each, while Kim Wolfer and Bobbi Austin added eight points apiece. Megan Doty of South Harrison led all scorers with 13 on the night.

The loss drops the Bulldogs to 2-2 on the season, while moving the

'Hounds to 2-1.

Maryville will be in action again tonight, playing its home opener against Bishop LeBlond at 7 p.m.

-Beth Meyer

Three Spoofhounds named to All-State

The Missouri Sports Writers and Sports Writers Association released their 2004 All-State team Tuesday.

Among those who made the Class

3 team were Maryville seniors Syd Brisbane, Keith Starr and Evan Wilmes.

Brisbane made it on the first team of ends. Starr made the second team for defensive linemen and Wilmes made the second team for linebackers.

Maryville finished No. 3 in the final polls. They finished right behind state runner-up Harrisonville and state champion M.I.C.D.S.

For a full list of all the teams visit missourianonline.com.

Track begins new season with new coach

By AARON NELSON
Missourian Reporter

Usually, when an athlete joins a team, there is some kind of ini-

ever, when the newest member of the team is the head coach, emerging rituals or tests of loyalty are not and a new system is put in place.

In the scenario for the women's field squad, who will start their season under new head coach Scott Lorek on Dec. 10 at the Northwest Meet, held at Iowa State University, Lorek is pleased to take over coaching reins at Northwest. Wooten, who resigned last season. Despite being the new guy, Lorek remains positive.

"I have a pretty positive picture before me out here, and it's just that way. If anything, things are more positive for me," Lorek said.

Scott Lorek is not the only Lorek to join the Northwest coaching staff. His wife, Shelley, also serves as a voluntary coach over the distance runners, as well as his assistant. Lorek is glad Shelley is a part of the team.

"I think she is just a great influence to have around that group," Lorek said.

A positive outlook not only applied to Lorek's decision to move to Maryville, but also plays a big part in his philosophy on coaching.

"The thing that I come back to a lot is that we truly have to love the process," Lorek said. "We have to enjoy going to practice everyday. It has to be something you look forward to."

However, Lorek is quick to point out that the teams may be relaxed,

but they work hard.

"It should be in an atmosphere of low pressure and fun, but definitely working very hard," he said.

Lorek's previous résumé speaks volumes to the success of his philosophies, but the key to continued success at Northwest is primarily dependent on his runners.

"It's primarily a question of the enthusiasm in program, and working hard from every aspect, not only a coach working hard, but the team working hard, and being committed to doing the best job that they can," Lorek said. "I think we have all that going on here."

Results of the hard work and commitment will come to fruition for both the women's and men's

teams at the season's first meet. However, for some of the members of each squad the opportunity to test themselves won't come until January when the track teams will have their first full squad meet at Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa.

"We're not taking the whole team," Lorek said. "We're just taking those who I think will get something really positive out of it."

Those who will stay behind have minor, but specific reasons they will not make the trip.

"We have some people that were not taking, but a lot of that is based on some technique things that we want to develop a little bit further," Lorek said.

Just because this meet won't feature his whole squad, Lorek and his team are not looking past it.

"We never go to the line unless you're absolutely ready to go. It's as much an emotional involvement as any meet will have," Lorek said.



Scott Lorek

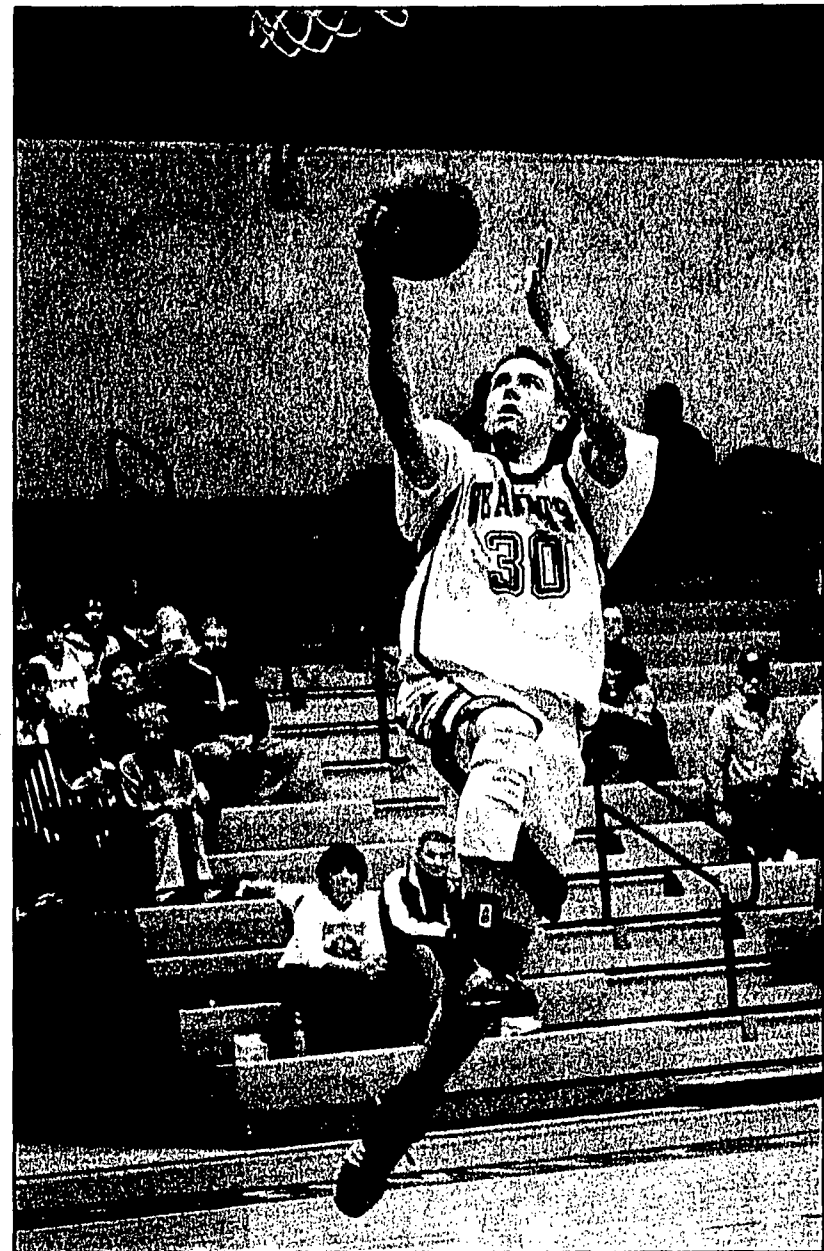


PHOTO BY STEVE SERRANO/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh Vanderslice lays in two points Monday during the 'Cats' rout of Central Bible College at Bearcat Arena. Northwest plays 7-1 Clarke College Sunday to finish the homestand.

CONTINUED from 1B

'Cats to finish homestand before heading to Hawaii

or more. The 'Cats got great production from the bench, scoring 46 points, while Central Bible only got 14 points off of the bench. Austin Meyer led the charge with 12 points for Northwest, and Central Bible's Will Kitchen led all scorers with 20 points.

"It was nice to have that many different people score," Tappmeyer said. "The main thing is that we started to see what we need to see from our top eight players."

Despite the big victory, Tappmeyer insisted a number of players who could still step up and claim more playing time.

"Our three, four, and five are pretty much settled," Tappmeyer said. "We need to decide on about two more people, and there's about

five who could do it."

The win brought Northwest's record to 7-1 on the season, with their one loss coming on the road against Central Arkansas.

"We have to continue to get better at defense, rebounding, and turnovers if we want to continue to be successful this season," Meyer said.

The Bearcats have Clarke College coming into Maryville on Sunday evening, and it looks as though their schedule will be tougher for the rest of the season.

"Clarke is 7-1 and they are a good solid basketball team," Tappmeyer said. "From here on out we're going to have to play well, or get beat."

Brendan Kelley can be contacted at (660) 562-1224

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Jamaica Rector

Rector hauled in 87 passes this season for more than 1200 yards to lead the Bearcats to an 11-2 record. Up next for Rector is the Hula Bowl, Jan. 22 in Wailuku.

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Your Man gives advice on women

Women can be vindictive, demanding, high maintenance and utterly confusing. Despite all of this, Your Man has finally uncovered the truth about the opposite sex. Women were sent here to crush men's dreams and ruin our lives. Ever since the dawning of cavemen, women have snatched up a guy's manhood and placed it in their purses. Today's female is no different!

There are five categories of girlfriends out there: the Bossy Witch; the Unfaithful Tart; the Money Grubbing Wench; the 'Let's Get Married' Chick and The Happily Ever After Girl. These women can be found right here in Maryville and all of them have plans for the man they are dating.

This brings me to the Bossy Witch. These women have it all figured out. Their guy is wrapped around their finger tighter than a lid on the pickle jar. They tell their man what to do, when to do it and how high to jump. They don't lose many arguments, if any, and always have things their way. Having a girl that knows what she wants is one thing, but a control freak is another thing completely.

Final analysis: Proceed with caution



THE STROLLER

Next, we have The Unfaithful Tart. These girls have the horrible habit of sleepwalking their way into another guy's cabin. No matter how sure a guy is of their relationship, cheating is always among our biggest fears.

If it's ever happened to you, you know that it leaves you paralyzed, feeling like you were shot through the heart. Being honest and upfront with the girl is always the best way to prevent it.

Final Analysis: Don't pick her up at a bar.

Thirdly, we have the Money-Grubbing Wench. This is pretty self explanatory. These women are superficial as hell and are just looking for the four animals; a mink on their shoulders, a jaguar in

the garage, a tiger in bed and a jackass to pay for it all.

Final Analysis: Trouble.

Next we have the "Let's Get Married" chick. This girl has been great to you for months, maybe years, but now she's forcing the marriage topic down your throat. Nothing can make a guy sweat quite like the word "commitment".

Final Analysis: Don't let her pressure you into anything.

Finally, this brings us to the "Happily Ever After Girl". This is the girl that can do no wrong in your eyes. She keeps you on your toes, is the sweetest girl you've ever met and definitely the most beautiful woman you've ever seen.

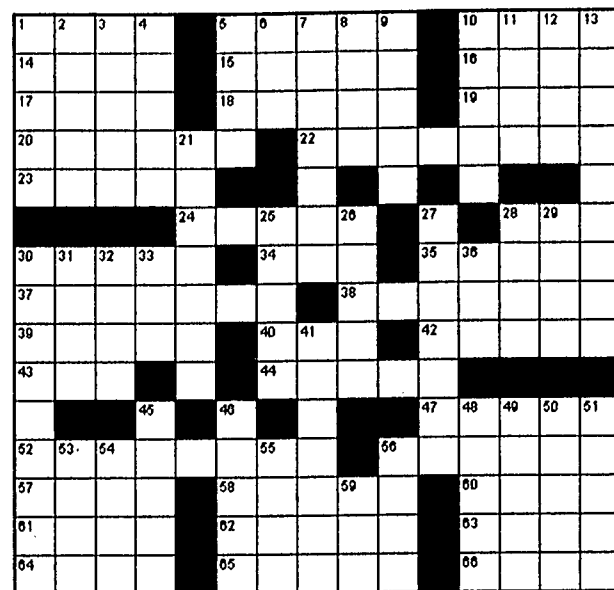
Final Analysis: You can't pass this one up, but good luck finding her.

Guys will never fully understand the opposite sex, but one day, if you're lucky, you just might meet someone that makes sense for you. Women drive us crazy and sometimes make us do things we don't want to do.

But, the truth is that having a good woman in your life makes everything worthwhile.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



Across

1. Dog cry
5. Titles
10. Musical percussion instrument
14. Supreme Norse god
15. Century plant
16. Republic of Ireland
17. Brood
18. Selected
19. Coal waste
20. Current of air
22. Narrative poem by Keats
23. Inward feeling
24. Public transport

Down

1. Explosive weapons
2. Worship
3. Become ripe
4. Leg joints
5. Hub
6. Gone by

Across

28. Mineral spring
30. Grass cutting implement
34. Vigor
35. German submarine
37. Lift up
38. Attack
39. Debris
40. Call of the crow
42. Funeral fires
43. Distinguished Service Medal
44. From that time
47. Long-bodied short-legged dog
52. Drop of rain

Down

7. Afternoon performance
8. Belonging to first lady
9. Enclosed automobile
10. Degenderize
11. Small rivulet
12. River feeding the Caspian Sea
13. Millions of watts
21. Offspring of a zebra and an ass
25. Eyeglasses
26. Mass of eggs
27. Mistrust
28. Tart
29. Not bright
30. Unpremeditated homicide
31. Literary work
32. Fancy
33. Even (poet.)
36. Body of water
41. Airdrome
45. Sterilize
46. Courageous
48. Chicago airport
49. Apply wax again
50. Search blindly
51. Small islands
53. Great age
54. Resembling ink
55. Baking chamber
56. River in central Europe
59. I have

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on the edge

Tree facts:

- The African baobab tree has a circumference as large as 100 feet. One such tree in Zimbabwe is so wide that the hollowed-out trunk serves as shelter at a stop, with a capacity to hold as many as 40 people.
- The angle between the branches of a tree and its trunk remains constant in each species, and this same angle is found between the principal veins of the tree's leaves and all its subsidiary branching veins.
- The average expectancy of a white ash tree is 120 years.
- A 120-foot tree grows for three-quarters of a long acorn.
- A sizable tree during the type growing season gives off 200 gallons of moisture.

Upcoming Concerts

Kansas City

Dec. 14 **Vanessa Carlton**
Uptown Theatre

Dec. 15 **Jimmy Eat World**
Uptown Theatre

Dec. 15 **The Donnas**
Uptown Theatre

Dec. 18 **Sister Hazel**
Beaumont Club

Des Moines

Dec. 11 **The Nadas**
Hoyt Sherman Theatre

Dec. 14 **Mark Erelli**
Vaudeville Mews

Dec. 31 **Five By Design**
Des Moines Symphony

Jan. 14 **Jerry Seinfeld**
Civic Center

Omaha

Dec. 10 **Gaither Homecoming**
Qwest Center

Dec. 17 **Remembering Never**
Ranch Bowl

Dec. 26 **Mannheim Steamroller**
Qwest Center

Dec. 31 **Sean Costello**
Holiday Inn Conv. Center

For more information on upcoming events check out www.pollstar.com

Congratulations Lindsay!

You are a Photoshop princess. Thank you for the flair you contributed to our paper, your patience and dedication. Shouting profanities at the computer wouldn't have been the same without you! We wish you the best of luck!

Your friends at the Missourian

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